



Church Constitution & bylaws

Membership

Welcome to Our Church Family

Dear Friends,

Welcome! We are overjoyed to have you embark on this journey of faith with us. As a body of believers deeply rooted in the love of Christ, we are dedicated to creating a warm and welcoming environment where everyone can spiritually flourish and discover their purpose in God's grand narrative.

Our Mission

Our mission is to glorify God through heartfelt worship, devoted discipleship, and active service. Embracing a blend of old-fashioned values and contemporary relevance, we focus on fundamental, Christ-exalting practices. Central to our worship are Bible preaching and vibrant, spiritual singing designed to open hearts to God's teachings and foster an environment of praise.

Driven by a desire to please Christ, we reach out with the Gospel, aiming to deeply impact our community and beyond and establish families firmly in the Word of God.

Our Vision

We envision our church as a beacon of timeless faith, inspiring our community through vibrant worship, transformative discipleship, and dedicated outreach. Our services are designed to honor our Savior and prepare hearts to respond to His Word with joy, welcoming everyone to be a part of this journey.

With a missionary-minded approach, we seek to extend our reach, sharing the Gospel and impacting lives with the love of

Christ. We strive to cultivate a local body of believers equipped to celebrate and propagate the faith entrusted to us.

What It Means to Be a Member

Commitment to Community and Service

Becoming a member of our church is a commitment to be part of a body of believers that serves God and one another in love and truth. Members are encouraged to participate actively in church activities, support one another in prayer, and contribute to the spiritual growth of the community.

Financial Stewardship and Tithing

As part of our stewardship and commitment to God's work, members agree to support the church financially. We practice tithing as a scriptural benchmark for giving, acknowledging that each member's ability to give may vary. Tithing is an act of worship that recognizes God's sovereignty over all aspects of our lives, including our finances. While it is a personal commitment between each member and the Lord, it is also a vital aspect of our collective ministry and mission.

Voluntary Contributions

No one is compelled to give, nor will anyone be pursued for not giving. Instead, we trust each member to fulfill this commitment as they are able and led by the Spirit. Contributions are handled with discretion and are used responsibly to further the church's mission both locally and abroad.

Shared Beliefs and Practices

Members affirm their agreement with the church's statement of faith and commit to live in accordance with biblical teachings and the spiritual governance of church leadership.

Church Goals

Establishing Our Foundation Our primary goal is to firmly establish our church community, beginning with a foundational group of at least ten committed members. This core group will serve as the bedrock of our congregation, embodying our values and dedication to Christ's teachings. Establishing this solid foundation is crucial for fostering a vibrant community rooted in faith and fellowship.

Growth Through Outreach Once established, our focus will shift to growth through active outreach. Our mission is to reach out to those who are lost or have strayed, much like the prodigal son returning to the fold. We are committed to sharing the Gospel within our community, inviting new believers and rejuvenating the faith of those who have wandered. This outreach will be a key driver in our efforts to expand our church family and deepen our collective faith.

Transitioning to a Permanent Home In tandem with our outreach efforts, we aim to transition from our initial meeting place in a hotel to a leased building. This move will provide us with a more stable and welcoming environment for worship and community activities. The process is already underway, reflecting our commitment to creating a dedicated space for our growing congregation.

Future Aspirations: Land and Building Looking to the future, our ultimate aspiration is to purchase land and construct a custom prefab metal building that will serve as our permanent church home. This space will be designed to accommodate our growing

congregation and provide the facilities necessary for a full range of church activities, from worship services to community outreach and educational programs.

A Vision for the Future These goals are steps toward realizing our vision of being a beacon of hope and love in our community, living out the teachings of Jesus Christ. Each phase of our development is guided by prayer, careful planning, and a commitment to the spiritual growth and well-being of our congregation.

The Purpose of the Local New Testament Church

1. Worship The church is called to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). This worship goes beyond music and songs; it encompasses obedient living, prayer, and reverence towards God. The early church regularly gathered for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers, as seen in Acts 2:42.

2. Ministry to Believers The local church serves as a community for believers to care for one another and build each other up in faith. This ministry includes teaching, encouragement, fellowship, and mutual support (1 Thessalonians 5:11). The Epistles frequently address the need for believers to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

3. Evangelism and Missions A core mandate of the church is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), which calls for the making of disciples of all nations. This involves evangelism—proclaiming the Gospel locally and globally—and includes supporting missions work, planting churches, and equipping believers to spread the Word of God.

4. Discipleship and Spiritual Growth The church is tasked with teaching God's Word to equip the saints for the work of ministry, aiming for the growth of the body of Christ in unity and maturity (Ephesians 4:12-13). This process of discipleship involves deepening believers' understanding of Scripture, helping them to apply biblical principles in their lives, and growing in spiritual maturity.

5. Service and Outreach Following the example of Christ, the church is to engage in service both within the community of believers and to the wider world. This includes caring for the poor, helping those in need, and being a good neighbor to those outside of the church

(Galatians 6:10). The book of James emphasizes that true religion involves caring for orphans and widows in their distress (James 1:27).

6. Ordinances The local church is entrusted with the administration of the ordinances that Christ instituted: baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 28:19). Baptism signifies a believer's faith in Christ and incorporation into his body, while the Lord's Supper commemorates Christ's death and anticipates his return.

7. Stewardship Churches are stewards of God's resources, tasked with using them wisely for the advancement of His kingdom. This includes the responsible management of finances, property, and other assets that have been entrusted to the church (1 Peter 4:10).

8. Reflection of God's Glory Ultimately, the church exists to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21). In its worship, ministry, community life, and even in its structure and order, the church reflects the character and glory of God to the world.

The Church Leadership

God is the overall leader of the Church

Pastoral Leadership

“Responsible for spiritual guidance, teaching, and overall leadership.”

Deacons

“Supports the ministry through service and logistics, not governing.”

Congregation

“The body of church members, engaging in worship, receiving spiritual nourishment, and participating in church life.”

The Role of a Pastor & His Time

Based on Scripture:

This Statement does not exhaust the extent of our belief. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

Based on the King James Bible, the role of a Bible-believing pastor can be understood as follows:

1. **Shepherd and Teacher:** A pastor is responsible for shepherding and caring for the spiritual well-being of the congregation. They are to guide, nurture, and lead the members of their church, much like a shepherd cares for their flock. This includes teaching and preaching the Word of God, helping people understand and apply biblical principles to their lives.
2. **Preacher of the Gospel:** The pastor has the duty to proclaim the Gospel message, which is centered on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They are called to share the good news of salvation, emphasizing repentance from sin, faith in Jesus, and the hope of eternal life through Him.
3. **Spiritual Leadership:** The pastor is expected to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation, setting an example of faith, integrity, and godly character. They should strive to live a life that reflects the teachings of the Bible, demonstrating humility, love, and compassion towards others.
4. **Discipler and Mentor:** Pastors are called to disciple and mentor believers, helping them grow in their relationship with God. This involves providing guidance, support, and encouragement, as well as equipping them with the knowledge and tools to live out their faith effectively.

5. **Administrator and Organizer:** Pastors also have administrative responsibilities in overseeing the affairs of the church. This may include managing church operations, coordinating ministries, and organizing various activities to promote the spiritual growth and well-being of the congregation.
6. **Counselor and Comforter:** Pastors often play the role of a counselor, offering guidance and support to individuals facing challenges or seeking spiritual advice. They are to provide comfort, encouragement, and biblical wisdom to those in need, helping them find hope and healing through God's Holy Word.
7. **Prayer Leader:** A Bible-believing pastor should be a person of prayer, leading the congregation in prayer and interceding on behalf of others. They are to foster a culture of prayer within the church, encouraging believers to seek God's presence and guidance through prayer.

Here are some relevant scriptures from the King James Bible that support the role of a Bible-believing pastor:

Shepherd and Teacher:

- **1 Peter 5:2-3:** "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Preacher of the Gospel:

- **Mark 16:15:** "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
- **2 Timothy 4:2:** "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Spiritual Leadership:

- **Hebrews 13:7:** "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."
- **1 Timothy 4:12:** "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Discipler and Mentor:

- **2 Timothy 2:2:** "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Administrator and Organizer:

- **1 Corinthians 14:40:** "Let all things be done decently and in order."

Counselor and Comforter:

- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4:** "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Prayer Leader:

- **1 Timothy 2:1-2:** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

These scriptures provide a biblical foundation for understanding the role of a Bible-believing pastor, but again, they are not exhaustive.

The Availability of the Pastor

The idea that a pastor should be available and not tied down to a regular job can be understood based on several principles found in the Bible:

1. **Dedication to Ministry:** Serving as a pastor requires a significant commitment of time, energy, and focus. The pastoral role involves various responsibilities, such as preaching, teaching, counseling, and leading the congregation. By being available and not tied down to a regular job, pastors can prioritize their ministry and dedicate themselves fully to the spiritual needs of the church.
2. **Shepherd's Care:** The role of a pastor is often compared to that of a shepherd who cares for and guides the flock. Shepherding involves being available to tend to the needs of the sheep, ensuring their well-being and safety. In a similar way, pastors are called to be available to provide spiritual guidance, support, and care for the members of their congregation.
3. **Preparing and Studying God's Word:** Pastors are responsible for teaching and preaching the Word of God. This requires dedicated time for studying and preparing sermons, lessons, and messages. By being available and not burdened by additional employment, pastors can devote more time to studying and understanding the Scriptures, equipping themselves to effectively communicate biblical truths.
4. **Availability for Emergencies and Crisis Situations:** Pastors are often called upon to provide support and counsel during times of crisis, such as illness, death, or personal emergencies. By being available and not tied down to other job commitments, pastors can be more readily accessible to offer comfort, guidance, and pastoral care in such situations.

It's important to note that while there is value in a pastor being available, I understand that each church and ministry context may have its own unique considerations and practicalities. Some pastors may have part-time jobs or engage in bi-vocational ministry due to specific circumstances or the size of the congregation. This is not always recommended because the important underlying principle is that pastors should prioritize their pastoral responsibilities and make themselves available to serve the spiritual needs of the church to the best of their abilities.

Here are some scriptures from the King James Bible that support the above idea of pastors being available and not tied down to a regular job:

Dedication to Ministry:

- **2 Timothy 2:4:** "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
- **Act 6:1-4:** "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Shepherd's Care:

- **John 10:11:** "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

- **1 Peter 5:2-3:** "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Preparing and Studying God's Word:

- **2 Timothy 2:15:** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- **2 Timothy 4:2:** "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Availability for Emergencies and Crisis Situations:

- **Galatians 6:2:** "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
- **James 5:14:** "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

These few scriptures highlight the importance of pastors prioritizing their ministry above all else (there are more, but these are a few that I can immediately think of), being available to care for the flock, and dedicating themselves to studying God's Word. They also emphasize the role of pastors in providing support during times of crisis and being accessible to meet the congregation's spiritual needs.

Financial Support for the Pastor

The KJV Bible provides guidance on supporting and taking care of pastors and ministers. Here are a few relevant scriptures:

- **1 Corinthians 9:14:** "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."
- **1 Timothy 5:17-18:** "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."

These verses suggest that those who preach the Gospel and labor in the Word of God should receive financial support and honor from the congregation.

Taking Care of Ministers:

- 1 Timothy 5:17: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."
- Galatians 6:6: "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

These verses emphasize the importance of honoring and caring for those who serve as ministers and teachers of the Word of God.

Brief Summary of the History of Taking Care of The Man of God

Here's a brief summary of the history of taking care of pastors based on the Old and New Testaments of the Bible:

Old Testament:

1. **Levitical Priesthood:** In the Old Testament, the tribe of Levi was set apart as the priestly tribe. They did not receive a portion of land like the

other tribes but were supported by offerings, tithes, and provisions from the people. The people were instructed to provide for the priests and their families, as they served in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. Again, Levites had no land or cattle if the levit didnt work in the temple they did not eat. (Numbers 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 18:1-8).

2. **Provision for Prophets and Teachers:** Prophets and teachers, such as Elijah and Elisha, were often supported by the hospitality of the people. They would stay with families who would provide for their needs (2 Kings 4:8-10).

New Testament:

1. **Financial Support:** In the New Testament, the apostle Paul addresses the need to support those who labor in preaching and teaching. He affirms that those who preach the Gospel should receive financial support from the community in which he preaches the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
2. **Generosity of Believers:** The early Christian community practiced a sense of shared resources and taking care of one another. Believers would voluntarily give to support the needs of those in ministry and the wider community (Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-37).

Overall, the Bible teaches the importance of supporting and caring for those who dedicate their *lives* to ministry and teaching. This support can take various forms, including financial provision, hospitality, and sharing of resources. The specific practices and methods of providing for pastors have evolved over time and can differ among different cultural contexts and church traditions. However, the underlying principle of recognizing and meeting the needs of those in ministry remains consistent throughout the entire Bible.

The Role of a Biblical Deacon

Foundational Scripture The role of the deacon originates from Acts 6:1-7, where the apostles, needing to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word, appointed seven men to handle practical duties. This distinction underscores that while deacons play a crucial role in the church, they are not the primary leaders but serve to support the leadership.

Qualifications According to 1 Timothy 3:8-13, deacons must demonstrate:

- **Dignity and Respectability:** Exemplifying honorable behavior.
- **Honesty:** Being straightforward and truthful.
- **Sobriety:** Moderation in all behaviors and habits.
- **Financial Integrity:** Managing personal and church resources honestly.
- **Sound Faith:** Holding firm to the truths of the faith with a clear conscience.
- **Family Leadership:** Maintaining a well-managed family, if married.

Responsibilities Deacons assist the church by:

- **Administrative Support:** Helping manage church logistics and facilities, especially during worship services and special events.
- **Caring for the Congregation:** Supporting those in need within the church through various ministries.

- **Logistics Coordination:** Handling tasks such as the preparation for communion and baptisms to ensure services run smoothly.
- **Promoting Unity and Harmony:** Facilitating peaceful relations within the church community.

Limitations in Authority Deacons are not the governing authorities of the church. Their role is primarily one of service and support, enabling the pastoral staff and elders to focus on teaching, spiritual guidance, and leadership. The governance of the church is biblically mandated to the elders and pastoral leadership, who are tasked with overseeing spiritual teaching and direction, as stated in 1 Timothy 5:17.

Spiritual Impact The service of a deacon is deeply spiritual and integral to the health of the church. While their tasks are practical, the heart behind their service is the love of Christ, showing that effective ministry involves meeting both spiritual and physical needs

Constitution and Bylaws for
Mt. Calvary Bible Church
Fayetteville, NC

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 – NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the **MT. CLAVARY BIBLE CHURCH**

SECTION 1.02 – PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Following comprise the scriptural beliefs of this church and it's members.

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbal and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and Divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal literal, grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church as not to cause confusion among the brethern. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

(B) Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define Man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations – the age of law, the age of the church, and the age of the kingdom are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; 2:2-6)

(C) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26). The Father is God- John 6:27; Rom. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2. The Son is God – Is. 44:6; John 1:1; John 20:28. Heb. 1:8; Jude 1:17, 24. The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16.

(D) The Person and Work of Christ

(1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; John 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 9:26).

(2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:1-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 13:12; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

(3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the

right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Acts 1:3; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:4; 1 John 2:1-2)

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

(1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8- 11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 1:13-14).

(2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand, interpret and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 1 John 2:20, 27).

(3) We believe that through the power of the Indwelling Holy Spirit, God bestows spiritual gifts to every believer in accordance to Scripture (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet 4:10, 11; 1 Cor. 13:13-14). Also, that God, through His Holy Spirit, Uniquely uses the ministry of evangelists, pastors, and teachers to; edify, teach, exhort, and challenge believers to do the work of the ministry.

(4) We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (1 Cor. 1:22;13:8; 14:21-22)

(F) The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, But that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; John 3:18; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 3:5).

(G) Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by repentance and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (John 1:12; Eph 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

(H) The Assurance of Believers

(1) We believe that all redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5). However, The Bible is clear and we believe that man was created with a free will and has the power, once drawn by the Holy Spirit, to yield to the influence of truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish (Genesis 2:15-17; Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:13, 6:16). (2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:18; Titus 2:11-15).

(I) The Church

(1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again baptized believers (Mat. 28:19; Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).

(2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42; 14:27; 16:4; Acts 20:17; 28:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Mat. 18:17; Acts 1:23; 6:3; 13:14; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 1 Cor. 5:4-7, 13; 12:25, 26, 27; 1 Peter 5:14).

(4) We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are the only 2 Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age (Mat. 26:26-28; 28:19-20; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

(J) Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances, piercing, and bodily markings.(Rom. 6:13-14; 12:1-2; Rom. 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 7:1; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9:11).

(K) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ, who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the Nation of Israel (Ps. 89:34; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech.14:4-11; Mat. 25:31-46; Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1; Chapters 21 & 22).

(L) The Eternal State

(1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2, 13; Mat. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13; 21:1-9, 11-15).

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where consciously in Heaven they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4- 6).

(3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious punishment and torment in Hell until the second resurrection. Then with soul and body reunited, they

shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Mat. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15).

(M) **The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (The person of Satan is an angelic creation of God, a cherub, (Isa. 14:14, created as Lucifer, the anointed cherub who fell in pride and sinful rebellion to become Satan, the Devil. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:13-17; Mat. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

(N) **Creation**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, The Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. Chapters 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

(O) **Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the Home; 2) the Church; and 3) the State. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the State are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

(P) **Human Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:2, 29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4). ***We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.*** (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph 5:22-23)

(Q) **Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses' dies. Divorce and remarriage after divorce is regarded as adultery. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and their service will be greatly appreciated. However, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor, Assistant Pastor or Deacon (Mal. 2:14-17; Mat. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

(R) **The Family**

(1) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the church's leaders (pastor and deacons). Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

(2) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the leadership of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them through consistent lifestyle examples and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

(S) Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:15, 24, 49; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44).

(T) Missions

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Mat. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-48; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

(U) Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that God's Word prohibits Christians from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (Ex. 22:1-12; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

(V) Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spreading of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all right to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

(W) Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers but also toward both those who are believers and those who oppose us. We must deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking revenge, or the threat or use of violence to resolve personal conflict or obtain personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:24; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 2:17-18)

SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 3 – COVENANT:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. To give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from worldly living and the support of or involvement in practices that promote ungodly lifestyles and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove ourselves from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other Church of like faith, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Presentation for Membership: Prior to presentation to the congregation, prospective members are encouraged to review the church constitution and covenants and make verbal confirmation of the acceptance of and adherence to this Statement of Faith and Covenant.

Upon a majority vote of the qualified voting members present at any Church Service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; and who enter into the Church covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with one of the following conditions:

(A) By Statement of Faith, acknowledging a new birth by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and evidencing a testimony of obedience in Christ through believer's baptism by immersion, under the authority of a local New Testament Church of like faith and practice.

(B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice. This written statement testifies to the public acknowledgment of salvation and subsequent open profession of faith through water baptism by immersion, and the testimony of Christian conduct under the authority of that local church.

(C) By Baptism, Believers Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and does not save a person. Baptism is full immersion in water of the believer under the authority of a church of like faith and practice. Acts 2:42.

(D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon a majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor (and or the board of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant)

SECTION 2 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER:

On becoming a member of this Church, in addition to the covenant contained in *Article II, Section 3*, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor, to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the Church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a lifestyle walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the Church.

SECTION 3 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP:

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the Pastor as the under-shepherd with the counsel of the Board of deacons. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract or civil rights based on principles of democratic government.

SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER (Matt. 18)

(A) The Pastor and the board of deacons shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, one or two additional members are to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections *(B and C)* have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the Church upon a majority vote of the membership present at the meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(E) No matter may be heard by the Church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B and C) have been taken, except in the case of public offense.

(F) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration. The breaking of fellowship is for restoration, not retaliation. Family members not associated with the offense or participants in refusal of restoration are not to be held accountable.

(G) All Sunday School Teachers, Instructors and Church Officers shall refrain from public displays of anything that would compromise Godly moral decency. Any such display will be subject to church discipline. (Matt. 18:6-18; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 6:3-5).

(H) If the Pastor or a Church Officer is overtaken in a fault, then in accordance with scripture, he forfeits his qualifications to hold such a position. The fault must be confirmed by a second party, and after a thorough investigation by the Church, he shall be removed from his office by a vote of the church. The church shall set the time of removal (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:19).

SECTION 5 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 4, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 6 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

(A) The membership of any individual member can be automatically terminated if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the

preceding six months. The provision of termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor.

(B) No member of this Church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another, their membership in Mt. Calvary Bible Church is automatically terminated without notice from the church.

(C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor or the Church after review of the matter.

**ARTICLE
IV
OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 – CHURCH OFFICERS

The Church Officers are the Pastor (see Article V, Section 1 and the Deacons (see Article V, Section 2). The respective duties of each Deacon are directed by the Pastor pertaining to ministry. No homosexuals, transgenders, or any person who identifies themselves other than what God ordained them at birth, or anyone convicted of any sexual charges are to hold offices in this Church.

SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS:

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the Church the Pastor shall serve as the primary representative of the church. The Pastor and the Church shall choose from among the Church, a treasurer of the Church. The Pastor shall delegate the position of church clerk to a qualifying member who shall maintain business records as needed.

SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE:

- (A) All Church officers shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II) annually in the presence of each other with a signed statement.
- (B) All Church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the Pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- (C) Only Church members are eligible for election or appointment to any Church office or position.

SECTION 4 – TERMS OF OFFICE:

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) The relationship between the Pastor, Associate Pastors, paid staff and the Church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the Pastor and the Church may be considered at any regular Church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the Church two Sundays prior to said regular Church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the members present and voting shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article III, Section 1 (D).

SECTION 5 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The annual election of officers by the Church membership shall occur during the month of December at the annual Church administration meeting. **Special elections can be held but only upon the prayerful approval of the Pastor and Associate Pastor.*

SECTION 6 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF:

- (A) Subject to the approval of the Church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the Church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may hire associates and assistants, to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B) Church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same. The Pastor shall be actively involved as a member of every committee. Salaries shall be established by a recommendation of the Pastor, but are reviewed and approved by the Church. The Church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 7 – VOTING

- (A) The system of voting shall be open public response by majority show of hands in support or opposition of any proposal or the voicing of the Scriptural endorsement of “Amen.”
- (B) Voting is according to the traditional patterns. The Pastor makes recommendations and the church approves or disapproves. During the business meeting the congregation (Members) may have opportunity to present suggestions of business for consideration.
- (C) A quorum must consist of at least one-third of the church membership, and all votes must be approved by the majority of eligible voters.
- (D) Eligible voters are represented by those members that are 16 years and older and are faithful and consistently manifest the beliefs of Mt. Calvary Bible Church.
- (E) No voting action or recommendation of action can take place outside of the context of Pastor and Church Body. No secret meetings shall be held; no vote can be considered outside of this pre-approved method of practice.
- (F) Business meetings are called to present current business, promote new business, and discuss the possible options and opinions of the Church.
- (G) The Church authorizes the Pastor to make purchases on behalf of the Church up to \$500.00. Purchases in excess of \$500.00 (excluding routine and recurring operating and maintenance expenses) must be presented to the Church in regular business meetings for approval by a vote of the Church.
- (H) The authority to act as representatives of the Church body is granted by a vote of approval to office by the Church. The authority to carry out the actions of the respective offices is therefore given in accordance to the By-laws, Constitution, and Articles of Faith.

**ARTICLE V
(QUALIFICATIONS AND) DUTIES OF
OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 – THE PASTOR:

(A) The pastor will be required to meet Biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. There shall be one lead pastor and any other pastoral staff will be associate pastors.

(B) The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the Church, act as moderator at Church meetings, supervise the teaching ministries of the Church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

(C) The Pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at the annual Church administration meeting. He shall serve as the primary legal representative of the Church. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the Church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The Pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

(D) All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the pastor's control.

SECTION 2 – THE DEACONS

(A) The deacons shall assist the Pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the Church. If the Pastor requests, they shall consider applications for Church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the Pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the Pastor in visitation and other evangelistic efforts of the Church. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the Church's various ministries as requested by the Pastor. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for Church meetings if the Pastor is unavailable or the office of Pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the Pastor, the Church may appoint a pulpit committee.

(B) Deacons are required to meet Biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:8-10.

(C) The appointment of the church clerk, who shall keep a record of Church proceedings, of the membership roll, of all baptisms, of certificates of ordination and commissions as directed by the Church, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into the clerk's hands during the clerk's term of office. All records are to be kept in the Church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. The clerk shall keep an account of any special events in the life of the Church which are of historical interest and shall give a report at the annual Church administration meeting of the status of the Church membership roll in the past year.

(D) The treasurer shall account for all funds contributed to the Church and shall disburse the same as ordered by pastor and the Church. The treasurer shall maintain a written report of itemized disbursements for Church administration meetings and make a general report for the year. All expenditures for the Church shall be accounted for in the Church Financial Records

(J) The treasurer shall establish an Emergency Fund. The emergency fund shall be funded with transfers from other church accounts. The Emergency Fund shall not exceed 3 months of mandatory expenses. The funds may be invested in no-risk deposits or savings accounts only. To disburse funds in the Emergency Fund requires approval by a majority of the Church at a scheduled business meeting.

(K) The treasurer shall ensure that all accounts are reconciled monthly and that no account contains a negative balance. The General Fund is the primary source of transfers; however, other funds may be used in order to clear negative balances.

SECTION 3 – ASSOCIATE PASTORS:

Under the direction and guidance of the Pastor, the associate pastors of the Church shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the Church and the vision that God has given **him**.

SECTION 4 – DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS:

Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the constitution for a period of two months may be removed from his office at the discretion of the Pastor, and another may be appointed by the Pastor to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP:

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday evening of each month.

SECTION 2 – MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION:

(A) An administration meeting of the Church shall be held on either Sunday Evening or Wednesday Worship Services, at which time the regular Church administration shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of at least one-third of the membership of Mt. Calvary Bible Church. The Church shall set a date for the annual election of Church officers and proposed budget for the upcoming year in December.

(B) All church administration meetings shall be opened and closed with a prayer for divine guidance and blessings. As followed:

1. Devotions & prayer
2. Reading of minutes
3. Reception of members
4. Dismissal of members
5. Report of Officers
6. Reports of standing committees
7. Reports of special committees
8. Unfinished matters
9. Election of officers
10. New matters
11. Adjournment
12. Benediction

SECTION 3 – Special Meetings:

(A) The Pastor may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the Church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. The pulpit committee at any Regular Church meeting may call a meeting for election of a pastor with at least two weeks advance notice.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 4 – FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1 st . and end December 31 st .

ARTICLE VII CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE:

The Church believes that it is to provide the members' children with an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The Church believes that the home and Church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the Church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION 2 – CHURCH PARTICIPATION:

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the Church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the Church; however, the Pastor may permit non-Church members to participate in Church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the Church.

SECTION 3 – STAFF MEMBERSHIP:

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this Church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelist, or preachers, engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis complying with church authority.

SECTION 4 – STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD:

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the Church.

SECTION 5 – UNITY:

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the Church

SECTION 6 – TEACHING:

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom. All curriculums must be approved by the Pastor or his representative and must be KJV only.

SECTION 7 – CHRISTIAN WALK:

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE VIII
UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

All expenditures must be authorized in advance by the Pastor or the expenditure may not be reimbursed. Any expenditure in excess of \$500.00 must be presented to the Church assembly in accordance with a business meeting as described in Article VI meetings. The Pastor shall deem a majority affirmative vote by the congregation authorization for the expenditure. The majority vote shall establish the general direction of Church business, should the Pastor feel led by the Spirit to another decision, the matter should be discussed again, bathed in prayer and if necessary, brought forth for re-vote and reassurance of Spiritual direction.

**ARTICLE IX
ORDINATION**

SECTION 1 – ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS:

Any member of this Church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 2 – ORDINATION PROCEDURE:

- (A) Upon a conference with the Pastor and after the Pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the Pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council shall inform the church of their decision and, upon the approval of the church, the Church shall ordain the candidate.
- (C) The Pastor shall arrange for the ordination service.

**ARTICLE X
TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1 – PRIVATE INUREMENT:

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2 – DISSOLUTION:

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Church shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and in agreement with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 3 – RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE XI
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor and the Church. No fiduciary obligation shall be treated by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting, at any regular Church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14 days before the vote.)

× Nyrell D. Melvin
*Lead Pastor's Signature Required *Date

× _____
*Church Member's Signature Required *Date

